

NGAUS 130th National Conference AAR

It was an honor to be one (1) of five (5) company grade officers selected to be sponsored for the 130th NGAUS Conference in Baltimore, MD. The event was useful for both career advancement in the military as well as a personal understanding of NGAUS' roles and responsibilities as an organization.

During the conference, the city of Baltimore rolled out the red carpet for its nation's leaders, both in congress and the military. Agenda's of our military mission were discussed – such as continuing the development of a highly structured force that can respond to threats overseas and stateside. Congress members discussed their goals and visions on how to keep our military strong as well as support they proposed to provide.

Friday evening consisted of a junior grade officer mixer on the Spirit of Baltimore. The boat took officers on a dinner cruise where excellent foods were enjoyed and provided an overview of the weekend to come. This provided an excellent opportunity to meet other sponsored officers from different states and the ability to network for future events.

Saturday kicked off with Officer Professional Development sessions. Lt.Gen. Blum addressed the nation's newest officers and listened to the concerns and needs that were presented. Our involvement in future events was stressed to help shape our future force based on these needs. Saturday evening we were treated to a trip to Fort McHenry, where a battle was fought that inspired the writing of the Star Spangled Banner.

Sunday we continued with more Professional Development as well as elections for junior grade officers for future NGAUS events. A break-out session was provided for both the Army and the Air Force during lunch.

I strongly recommend involvement in this organization to all officers especially at the company grade level. As for as improving future events and participation, I feel we need to find a way to communicate this event well in advance for maximum participation

– as well as an understanding of the organization. I also recommend creating a group to help out first time attendees as it can be easy to get lost in such a large event. I do appreciate the opportunity to participate at the conference and hope to provide continued support for future events.

Mark A. Williams

2LT LRO – Contingency Plans Office

132FW Iowa ANG